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MARVEL

DC

JLA AVENGERS

BUSIEK • PÉREZ

1 OF 4

JLA/AVENGERS 1 OF 4

BUSIEK • PEREZ WITH SMITH

MARVEL COMICS • DC COMICS

Number One
JLA AVENGERS
Busiek • Pérez
Kurt Busiek
Writer
George Pérez
Artist
Tom Smith
Colorist & Separator
Comicraft
Letterer
And there came a day unlike any other, when earth's mightiest heroes were united against a common threat! On that day the Avengers were born -- to fight the foes no single hero could withstand!
The Avengers
JLA
Individually they are the world's greatest super heroes -- noble champions dedicated to honor and righteousness. Together they are the Justice League of America, and they fall to no enemy or evil!
Direct Edition
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Cover Artist: George Pérez
Cover Colorist & Separator: Tom Smith
Logo Design: John J. Hill

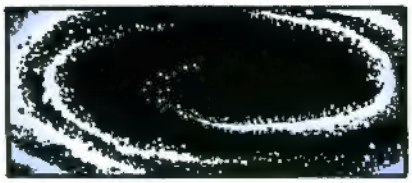
PROLOGUE: THE WORLD IS POLEMACHUS.
IT IS A WORLD THAT HAS KNOWN MUCH WAR--THAT HAS REVELED IN COMBAT AND BLOODSHED--
BUT TODAY--
TODAY ITS PROUD CAPITAL CITY KNOWS ONLY JOY AND CELEBRATION. FOR TODAY IS A GREAT DAY--
--THE DAY OF THE IMPERION.
GOING SOMEWHERE, MY LOVE?
I THOUGHT I'D GRAB A WINESKIN, SOME MEAT AND CHEESE FROM THE COOKROOM, AND GO KHEF-HUNTING IN THE HILLS TODAY.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN ME, OF COURSE.
UNLESS YOU'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA?
MMM. MAYBE LATER.
BUT TELL ME--WERE YOU PLANNING THIS MANLY JAUNT FOR BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR SUBJECTS HONOR YOUR ASCENSION TO THE IMPERIAL THRONE?
:SIGH: I SUPPOSE IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT TO AVOID IT ENTIRELY. BUT ALL THOSE ENDLESS SPEECHES PUT ME STRAIGHT TO--
MILORD ARKON! LADY THUNDRA! WE ARE ASSAILED!
EH?
VIZIER, WHAT--?
CAN YOU NOT HEAR IT? THE RUMBLES OF FEAR--THE CRIES OF PANICKED POLEMACHANS IN THE AVENUES?
GO TO THY WINDOWS, IMPERION--AND SEE!
BY THE SACRED RINGS--!

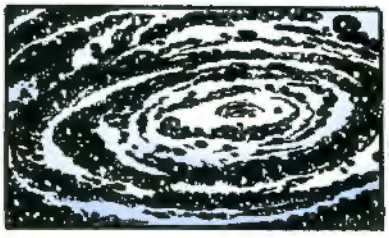
IT IS NOT THE SIZE OF THAT WHICH FILLS THE SKY THAT MAKES IT SO UNNERVING.
IT IS THE GAZE--AN INTELLIGENT, QUESTING, HUNGRY GAZE THAT LANCES THROUGH EACH BEING BELOW.
IT FILLS THEIR HEADS, THEIR MINDS--QUESTIONING, DEMANDING--
WHAT IS IT? WHAT IS THE SECRET? WHAT IS THE TRUTH? TELL ME! TELL ME!
NNH!
HKK
AND WHEN IT DOES NOT RECEIVE AN ANSWER, IT SEEKS--
--AND IN ITS WAKE COMES DEATH.
NO!
NO!
AIEEE!
STAND, CREATURE!
STAND AND FIGHT! ARKON THE IMPERION
POLEMACHUS DIES...
...AND A UNIVERSE DIES WITH IT.

ANOTHER UNIVERSE. OCCUPYING THE SAME SPACE, BUT A DIFFERENT VIBRATORY PLANE OF REALITY.
THE WORLD IS QWARD.
IT IS A WORLD THAT HAS KNOWN MUCH WAR AS WELL.
IT KNOWS IT TODAY.
HOLD THEM BACK, WEAPONERS! HOLD THEM BACK!
GODS OF CARNAGE, WE COMMAND THE MOST DEVASTATING ARSENAL IN ALL CREATION! SURELY WE CAN DRIVE OFF FIVE MERE--
KRAM
THOM
HAHAHAHA
WHAT A DELIGHT, POWER RING! I HAD NO IDEA THIS PLACE EVEN EXISTED! HOW DID YOU EVER FIND IT?
EHH. JUST BORED, ULTRAMAN. SCANNING THE HEAVENS WITH THE RING.
THOUGHT THIS'D MAKE FOR A NICE AFTERNOON.

AT LEAST THESE GUYS CAN PUT UP A FIGHT, EH?
MAYBE WE SHOULD LEAVE JUST ENOUGH TO REBUILD, SO WE CAN COME BACK AND--
TELL ME.
EH? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, QUI--
OHHH...
WHAT IS THE SECRET? WHAT IS THE TRUTH?
BY THE UNHOLY!
GET--OUT OF MY HEAD, CREATURE. GET OUT OF MY HEAD-- AND THEN I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT PAIN REALLY IS.
THEY WERE THE CRIME SYNDICATE. RULERS OF THIS REALITY'S EARTH.
>GHH<
VILLAINS.
CONQUERORS.
MONSTERS.
BUT NOW THEY, AND THE QWARDIANS, THE WORLD THEY STAND ON AND THE UNIVERSE IT FLOATS IN--
-- ARE NO MORE.
PROLOGUE ENDS.

DC COMICS & MARVEL COMICS PROUDLY PRESENT:





Once Upon a Time...

ONE MONTH LATER.

ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

SUPERMAN!

UHHH!

BELLY BURGER

BELLY REALLY GOOD

SUPERMAN'LL BE *OKAY*, GREEN LANTERN--DON'T WORRY ABOUT *HIM!* JUST GET THOSE *PEOPLE* OUT OF THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION.

GO GO GO GO GO!

THE CREATURE APPEARED WITHOUT *WARNING*, NEAR FALLVILLE, IOWA.

IT PAUSED, SEEMED TO SCENT THE AIR, AND BEGAN MARCHING DIRECTLY TOWARD *METROPOLIS*, DESTROYING *EVERYTHING* IN ITS PATH.

IT'S REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF *KEYSTONE CITY*.

SNNH!? CAN'T--!

IT'S NOT *STOPPING*.

WE'RE BARELY EVEN *SLOWING IT DOWN!* WE'LL LOSE THIS *SHOPPING CENTER* IN MINUTES--

--AND THE *WEST KEYSTONE MEDICAL CENTER* IS NEXT!

A DEPRESSING SUMMATION, AQUAMAN--BUT *ACCURATE*.

THIS BEING'S MENTAL SHIELDS ARE *PRODIGIOUS*-- I CAN SENSE A MIND WITHIN, BUT I CANNOT *READ* IT--!

HEY, BATS-- WHAT'S THE *STORY?*

YOU WANT A *LAWN CHAIR?* CAN OF *SODER? WEENIES*, FOR A ROAST?

HOW 'BOUT SOME *ACTION* HERE?!

QUIET, PLASTIC MAN...

...I'M THINKING.
THAT STAFF...
'COURSE, WE COULD JUST FLY YOU UP THERE, HAVE YOU STARE IT INTO SUBMISSION.
WORKS ON BANK ROBBERS...
...OR DIE ALONG WITH ALL WHO OPPOSE HIM!
NO!
PITIFUL WORMS!
TERMINUS IS YOUR MASTER NOW! BOW TO HIM...
YOU WON'T--
KC PD
SWAT
HNHH
SUPERMAN?
GATES OF ATLANTIS, THAT THING'S POWER...!
THE STAFF.
ITS POWER IS IN THE STAFF.
MARTIAN MANHUNTER, I WANT US ALL TELEPATHICALLY LINKED.
THE REST OF YOU...

...KEEP IT OCCUPIED!
AQUAMAN, ASSAULT FROM THE LEFT!
FLASH-- FROM THE RIGHT.
NO PROBLEM.
HOW'S ABOUT A COUPLE DOZEN TONS OF CONCRETE AND ROCK, ALL IN ITS FACE AT 600 M.P.H.?
IT'S A START.
PLASTIC MAN...
"IT'S A START." GEEZ--!

WAAAY AHEAD OF YOU, BATS!
HEY, GUY -- LET'S TURN THAT FROWN UPSIDE DOWN!
EH?
WONDER WOMAN, RESTRAIN HIM...
I'M... DOING MY BEST, BATMAN! BUT HE'S... EXTREMELY...
MARTIAN MANHUNTER, HIS STAFF...
GNATS!
YOU THINK TO SEPARATE TERMINUS FROM HIS STAFF? IT CANNOT BE DONE! EVEN TO ATTEMPT IT IS TO COURT...

NGH! WHAT...?!
I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SIFT THROUGH YOUR THOUGHTS, CREATURE...
...BUT A FULL-STRENGTH TELEPATHIC BOLT AGAINST YOUR SHIELDS SHOULD STILL...
YOU... YOU...
NOW, GREEN LANTERN!
I WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS!
YOU WILL NOT TAKE MY STAFF! I'LL DESTROY YOU ALL! DESTROY--
AH, BATMAN? HE MAY BE--
"WE'RE NOT."
AGHKH--!
RELAX, SUPERMAN. HE THINKS WE'RE TRYING TO TAKE HIS STAFF.

NICE.
YOU ALL KEPT HIM SO BUSY, I HAD TIME TO ANALYZE HIS ENERGY, FIGURE OUT A WAY TO CHANNEL IT, AND...
...POW! THIS TERMINUS GUY TAKES HIMSELF OUT!
THAT DOESN'T TELL US WHO HE IS OR WHY HE'S HERE, LANTERN. I'D STILL LIKE TO KNOW...
YOU NEED NOT CONCERN YOURSELF, SUPERMAN.
GOOD LORD, THAT VOICE! IT'S--!
THE BEING IS ALIEN TO THIS PLANE OF EXISTENCE.
IT DOES NOT BELONG HERE...
HAL...?
THEY ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA...
...THEIR WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES...
...BUT STILL, THIS NEW MANIFESTATION STOPS THEM IN THEIR TRACKS.
ONCE, HE WAS HAL JORDAN. A HERO. AN ALLY. A FRIEND.
NOW, HOWEVER...
...AND IT WILL BE DISPOSED OF.
...HE IS ONLY... THE SPECTRE.
MAN. I'LL NEVER GET USED TO THAT. I'VE HAD COFFEE WITH HIM, HUNG OUT WITH HIM, AND NOW...NOW HE'S WHAT, THE HAND OF GOD?
WE KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, KYLE. BELIEVE ME, WE KNOW.
ENOUGH.
THERE ARE STILL PEOPLE TRAPPED IN THE RUBBLE, JUSTICE LEAGUE. LET'S GO.

ANOTHER UNIVERSE.

NEW YORK CITY.

IT WAS ONLY TWENTY MINUTES AGO IT APPEARED, LOOMING OVER MANHATTAN, SPILLING ITS NOXIOUS SPAWN BY THE HUNDREDS, THE THOUSANDS.

SHE-HULK?

JEN, DON'T--!

THE MIGHTY AVENGERS WERE CALLED OUT TO DEAL WITH IT...

...BUT INSTEAD...

THE STARFISH-- THEY'VE GOTTEN YELLOWJACKET AND TRIATHLON! THEY'RE TAKING PEOPLE OVER--

--CONTROLLING [redacted] MINDS!

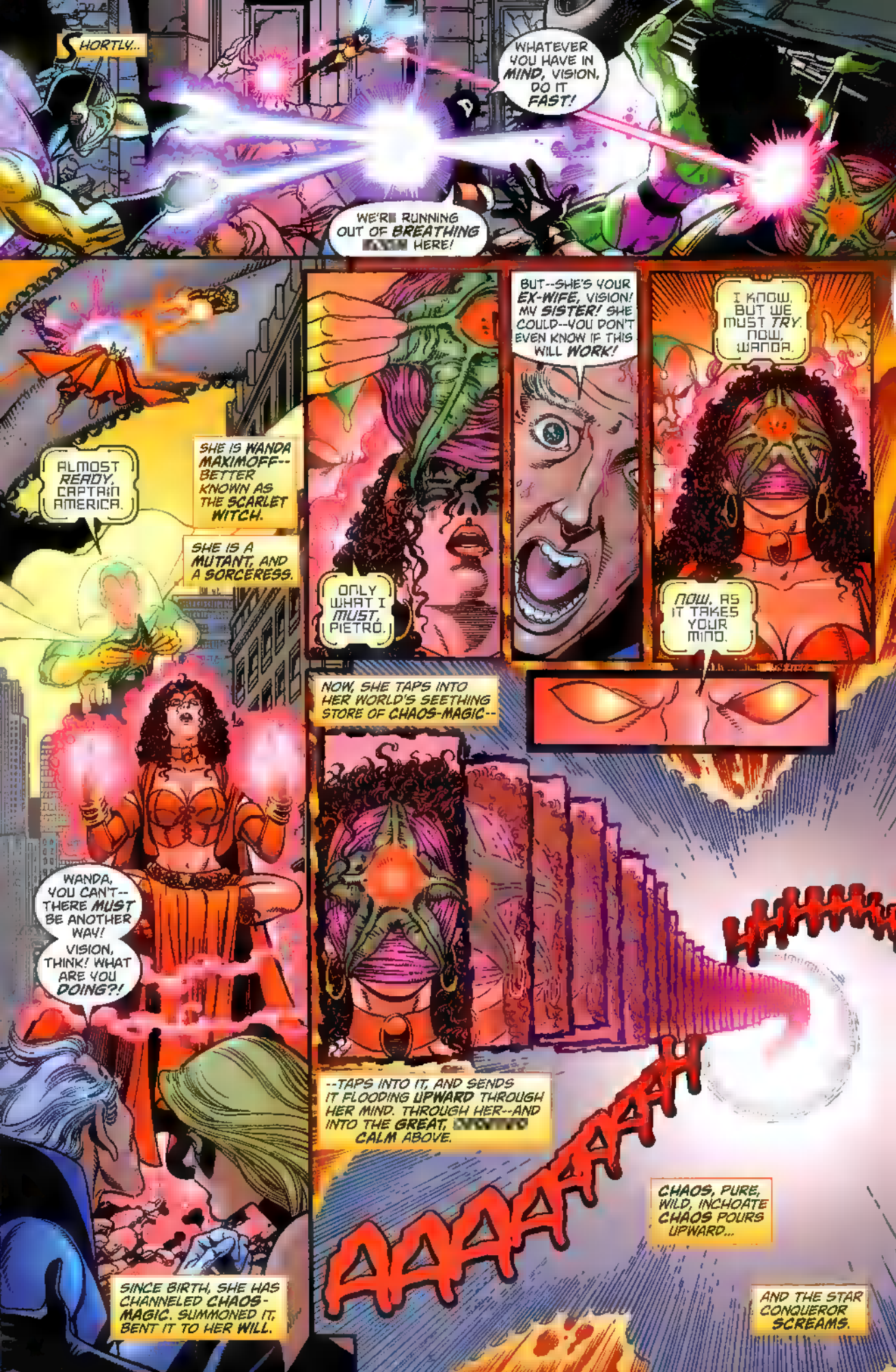
JUST DON'T LET THEM GET NEAR YOUR FACES, AVENGERS! DON'T LET THEM GET NEAR YOU--

SORRY, HONEY!

--OR THEY'LL TAKE YOU OVER, TOO!

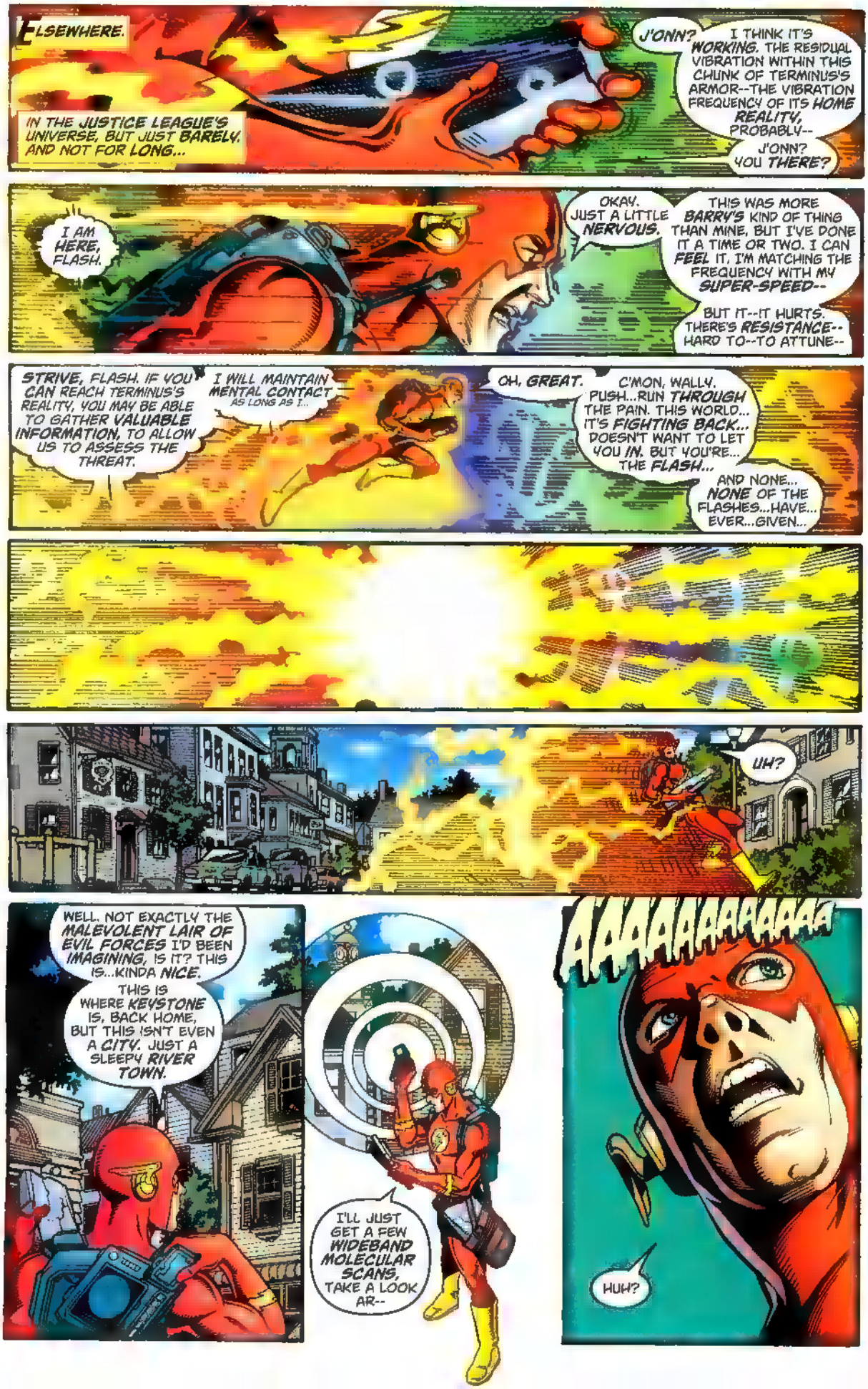
A FOR ANALYSIS, THOR--BUT NOTHING WE HIT IT WITH IS MAKING IT EVEN FLINCH!
IRON MAN! JACK OF HEARTS!
YON CYCLOPEAN SEA-BEAST IS THE WELLSPRING OF THIS THREAT! STRIKE AT THE SOURCE--AND END IT!
AND WITH EVERY SECOND THAT PASSES...
...MORE OF THESE THINGS FALL!
GET AWAY!
HOW DO WE STOP THESE THINGS? HOW DO WE EVEN FIGHT THEM?!
I DON'T KNOW, WARBIRD...JUST KEEP AT IT!
SORRY, SIR.
HOPEFULLY, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO THANK ME FOR THIS, LATER!
WE MUST ADOPT A NEW STRATEGY, AVENGERS. FOR EVERY PARASITE WE DESTROY, DOZENS MORE FALL.
WE CANNOT STOP THEM ALL, AND EVENTUALLY, EVEN OUR MIGHTIEST WILL--
OH, NO.
THEY GOT THOR. BAD. BAD NEWS
UHH!
SPLAMM
PIETRO?

PIETRO, FIGHT IT!
YOU CAN DO IT--YOU'RE STRONG! YOU CAN BEAT IT, BREAK FREE!
I'M SURE YOUR BROTHER'S DOING HIS BEST, WANDA. BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE SLOWED HIM DOWN--MAYBE HE COULD USE A LITTLE HELP.
BZAT
GO, WARBIRD! I'LL HANDLE THINGS HERE!
GET THAT THING OFF QUICKSILVER'S FACE--WE NEED HIS POWER!
YOU GOT IT, CAP.
KAMM
GHH!
HUHH!
DON'T KNOW IF IT'S DEAD...OR JUST UNCONSCIOUS...
BUT AT LEAST IT'S LETTING...
SPLHKK--!
I WAS... I WAS LINKED... TAPPED INTO ALL OF THEM, INTO IT!
IT THINKS... THINKS OF ITSELF AS THE STAR CONQUEROR! ALL IT WANTS... IS TOTAL CONTROL!
TIDES OF ORDER, YOU SAY?
THEN PERHAPS WE CAN DEFEAT IT.
I HAVE A THOUGHT...
ITS MIND... SO VAST, SO CALM...SLOWLY, IRRESISTIBLY POWERFUL, LIKE A GREAT OCEAN!
TIDES OF ORDER...OF CONTROL...WE CAN'T HOPE TO DEFEAT IT!


SHORTLY...
WHATEVER YOU HAVE IN MIND, VISION, DO IT FAST!
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF BREATHING [illegible] HERE!
ALMOST READY, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
SHE IS WANDA MAXIMOFF--BETTER KNOWN AS THE SCARLET WITCH.
SHE IS A MUTANT, AND A SORCERESS.
ONLY WHAT I MUST, PIETRO.
BUT--SHE'S YOUR EX-WIFE, VISION! MY SISTER! SHE COULD--YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW IF THIS WILL WORK!
I KNOW. BUT WE MUST TRY. NOW, WANDA.
NOW, AS IT TAKES YOUR MIND.
NOW, SHE TAPS INTO HER WORLD'S SEETHING STORE OF CHAOS-MAGIC--
WANDA, YOU CAN'T--THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY!
VISION, THINK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
--TAPS INTO IT, AND SENDS IT FLOODING UPWARD THROUGH HER MIND. THROUGH HER--AND INTO THE GREAT, [illegible] CALM ABOVE.
HHHHHH
AAAAAAAH
CHAOS, PURE, WILD, INCHOATE CHAOS POURS UPWARD...
AND THE STAR CONQUEROR SCREAMS.
SINCE BIRTH, SHE HAS CHANNELED CHAOS-MAGIC. SUMMONED IT, BENT IT TO HER WILL.

AVENGERS
=PFEAUGH!=
THAT WAS... THAT WAS MOST STRANGE.
I FELT A BLAST OF... OF SHEER MADNESS...
...FOLLOWED BY PAIN AND RAGE AND INCOMPREHENSION. AND THEN...
BE IT OVER, IRON MAN?
OVER? YES, THOR...
"...I THINK IT IS."
=PTHOO!= I MAY NEVER LOOK AT CALAMARI THE SAME WAY AGAIN...!
UH, HANK... CALAMARI IS SQUID...
OH, WHO CARES? JUST GET ME A GALLON OF LISTERINE AND A BUCKET OF BREATHMINTS! THAT TASTE...!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, WANDA?
I'M... I'LL BE FINE, PIETRO. BUT I THINK I LEARNED SOMETHING.
I MADE CONTACT WITH THE STAR CONQUEROR'S MIND, AND MANAGED TO STAY MOSTLY IN CONTROL.
I FELT... CONFUSION, SOMETHING VERY WRONG.
I DON'T THINK IT'S FR... THIS UNIVERSE. IT DIDN'T KNOW HOW IT HAD COME HERE, BUT IT KNEW IT DIDN'T BELONG...
EXCUSE ME...
...BUT I'M RECEIVING A TRANSMISSION. IT SEEMS... URGENT. IT'S FROM QUASAR...

AVENGERS MANSION.
--THOUGHT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS.
I'VE BEEN AT THE DEEP SPACE MONITORING STATION IN THE ASTEROID BELT--
--CHECKING IN ON THE SENSOR STATIONS I'VE SET UP THROUGH KNOWN SPACE.
AND I'VE BEEN GETTING, WELL...
...TROUBLING DATA.
"AN INTRUDER IN THE HEART OF THE SHI'AR EMPIRE, FOR INSTANCE. JUST APPEARED, WITHOUT RHYME OR REASON.
"AND EVEN THEIR IMPERIAL GUARD'S BEEN HARD-PRESSED TO CONTAIN HIM.
"THERE'VE BEEN FULL-ON INVASIONS AT THE HEART OF KNOWN SPACE--ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS ATTACKED BY NEWCOMERS...
"...WHO SEEM TO HAVE POPPED OUT OF NOWHERE."
THERE ARE OTHER REPORTS, AS WELL... AND MY Q-SCANS INDICATE THAT ALL THE INTRUDERS ARE FROM ANOTHER UNIVERSE. ALL THE SAME OTHER UNIVERSE, TOO.
THERE WAS A FLARE-UP ON EARTH LESS THAN AN HOUR AGO...
YES, WE CAN FILL YOU IN ON THAT ONE.
AH, IRON MAN? THOR AND CAP CAN PROBABLY HANDLE THAT, SO...
OF COURSE, JAN. WHAT DO YOU NEED?
IT SOUNDS LIKE WE MAY BE DEALING WITH [redacted] EXTRADIMENSIONAL TOURISTS, AND IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE ADVANCE WARNING.
HERE'S WHAT I WAS THINKING...


ELSEWHERE.
IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S UNIVERSE, BUT JUST BARELY. AND NOT FOR LONG...
J'ONN?
I THINK IT'S WORKING. THE RESIDUAL VIBRATION WITHIN THIS CHUNK OF TERMINUS'S ARMOR--THE VIBRATION FREQUENCY OF ITS HOME REALITY, PROBABLY--
J'ONN? YOU THERE?
I AM HERE, FLASH.
OKAY. JUST A LITTLE NERVOUS.
THIS WAS MORE BARRY'S KIND OF THING THAN MINE, BUT I'VE DONE IT A TIME OR TWO. I CAN FEEL IT. I'M MATCHING THE FREQUENCY WITH MY SUPER-SPEED--
BUT IT--IT HURTS. THERE'S RESISTANCE--HARD TO--TO ATTUNE--
STRIVE, FLASH. IF YOU CAN REACH TERMINUS'S REALITY, YOU MAY BE ABLE TO GATHER VALUABLE INFORMATION, TO ALLOW US TO ASSESS THE THREAT.
I WILL MAINTAIN MENTAL CONTACT AS LONG AS I...
OH, GREAT.
C'MON, WALLY. PUSH...RUN THROUGH THE PAIN. THIS WORLD... IT'S FIGHTING BACK... DOESN'T WANT TO LET YOU IN. BUT YOU'RE... THE FLASH...
AND NONE... NONE OF THE FLASHES...HAVE... EVER...GIVEN...
UH?
WELL. NOT EXACTLY THE MALEVOLENT LAIR OF EVIL FORCES I'D BEEN IMAGINING, IS IT? THIS IS...KINDA NICE.
THIS IS WHERE KEYSTONE IS, BACK HOME, BUT THIS ISN'T EVEN A CITY. JUST A SLEEPY RIVER TOWN.
I'LL JUST GET A FEW WIDEBAND MOLECULAR SCANS, TAKE A LOOK AR--
AAAAAAAAAAAAA
HUH?

FILTHY MUTANT!
GET HIM!
TOUCH MY DAUGHTER, WILL HE?
BEAT HIM TO--
HEY, NO, WAIT! MR. BEEMAN, IT'S ME--PETE GEHRINGER!
SHOW HIM HOW WE DEAL WITH HIS KIND AROUND HERE!
I'VE BEEN TO YOUR HOUSE! I'M ON THE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM!
THIS JUST... HAPPENED! I WASN'T LIKE THIS YESTERDAY, I SWEAR!
HOLD UP A MINUTE THERE, KID.
C'MON, PEOPLE, CALM DOWN.
HUH? WHERE'D HE COME FR--?
LOOK OKAY, YOU'RE SCARED, BUT THIS IS NO WAY TO ACT. IF THIS KID'S COMMITTED A CRIME, CALL THE COPS.
IF NOT, THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING? GET A GRIP, BEFORE ALL THIS GOES TOO--
ANOTHER ONE! HE MUST BE ANOTHER ONE!
ONE OF MAGNETO'S EVIL MUTANTS-- COME TO COLLECT THE FREAK!
DON'T LET 'EM GET AWAY-- EITHER OF THEM!
MAN. NOT VERY FRIENDLY, ARE THEY? DON'T WORRY, KID, I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THIS.
WHO-- WHO ARE YOU?
OH, RIGHT. FORGOT.
DOESN'T MATTER. JUST GO, GET TO SAFETY. I'LL HOLD BACK THE--
HUH?!
I--TRIPPED? BUT HOW--?
OH, LORD. I CAN'T FEEL IT ANY MORE. IT'S GONE--THERE'S NO SPEED FORCE IN THIS UNIVERSE! MY POWERS ARE GONE!
I CAN'T-- CAN'T--

THE JLA WATCHTOWER. ON THEIR EARTH'S MOON.
UH-OH. THANAGAR UNDER ATTACK BY GREEN UGLIES--
--MONGUL GETTING PIG-PILED BY, UH, BY WHATEVER THOSE ARE--
I MEAN, NOT THAT IT COULD HAPPEN TO A NICE GUY, BUT THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD...
YOU WERE RIGHT, BATMAN.
IT'S NOT AN ISOLATED INCIDENT. SO WHAT IS IT?
WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL FLASH GETS BACK, AND WE HAVE MORE DATA. COULD BE ACCIDENTAL, COULD BE INTENTIONAL-- WE CAN'T BE SURE.
UH, GUYS? GUYS, HE'S BACK.
MAN, WALLY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
TELL YOU LATER. MEANWHILE... DON'T MESS WITH ANGRY ROTARIANS.
WE WILL STOP IT, BATMAN. WHATEVER IT IS. IF IT IS A COSMIC RIFT, WE'LL HEAL IT...
AND IF IT'S AN INVASION, WE MEET IT, AND REPEL IT. FLASH'S SCANS WILL--
I'LL SAY THIS MUCH, THOUGH. IF I LIVED OVER THERE? I'D WANT TO GET OUT, TOO.
I BARELY DID...AS MY POWERS FADED, MY VIBRATIONAL RATE WENT BACK TO NORMAL...AND I POPPED BACK INTO KEYSTONE.
STILL, THE PEOPLE THERE...YIKES! THERE WAS THIS KID, AND--
RTBRRR
HUH?

RRT BRRT BRRT BRRT BRRT BRRT BRRT BRRT BRRT BR
JUSTICE LEAGUE.
WE HAVE A VISITOR.
HYY!
GYSS!
I FNK I FND HM!
KIND OF...PASSIVE FOR AN ALIEN INVADER, ISN'T HE?
BUT STILL AN ENIGMA, KYLE. I'M REACHING OUT MENTALLY, BUT RECEIVE ONLY A SENSE OF...CURIOSITY?
WHO ARE YOU? WHY HAVE YOU COME?
QUI ÊTES-VOUS? WARUM SIND SIE GEKOMMEN?
ENOUGH. IF HE WILL NOT SPEAK, LET US GO OUTSIDE--
--AND DEMAND ANSWERS OF HIM!
HOLD IT, AQUAMAN. WE HAVE SOMEONE ELSE APPROACHING--
--COMING FROM--

"--THERE!"
DO NOT WORRY ABOUT THE WATCHER. HE RARELY ACTS--
--CHOOSING INSTEAD ONLY TO OBSERVE AND RECORD.
HE MANIFESTS FOR THE MOST MOMENTOUS EVENTS--
LANTERN. CONTAIN HIM.
--LIKE THIS ONE.
ISN'T IT ALWAYS THE WAY? YOU GO DAYS WITHOUT SEEING ANY GIANT INEXPLICABLE COSMIC GUYS--
--AND THEN TWO OR THREE ARRIVE ALL AT ONCE!
I'M SUPERMAN. I GREET YOU IN THE NAME OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT BRINGS YOU TO OUR WORLD?
I AM KNOWN AS THE GRANDMASTER.
I HAIL FROM THE SAME UNIVERSE AS THE VARIOUS... INTRUDERS YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT.
BUT IT IS NOT IN MY NATURE TO SEE ANY CONTEST BE AN UNEVEN ONE--
--SO I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU OF THE PERIL YOU FACE.
OOO, SPACE REFEREE.
J'ONN? CAN YOU VERIFY THAT?
SADLY, SUPERMAN, I CANNOT.
FOR THE THIRD TIME TODAY, MY POWERS CANNOT REACH INTO A MIND THAT STANDS BEFORE ME.
IT IS BEGINNING TO GROW ANNOYING.
PERHAPS THE GOLDEN LASSO OF GAEA?
NO ONE WHO LIVES CAN BE ENCIRCLED BY IT AND STILL SPEAK FALSEHOOD.
OF COURSE.

AND I ASSURE YOU, THE ITEMS FROM MY REALITY ARE EQUALLY POWERFUL.
ONLY THESE ITEMS, BROUGHT TOGETHER, CAN END THE DANGER. FAIL TO ASSEMBLE THEM--
--AND A UNIVERSE DIES.
NOT GOOD ENOUGH. WHAT CAUSED THIS THREAT?
HOW WILL THE ITEMS BE USED? WHO WILL WIELD THEM, AND--
MY APOLOGIES, I HAVE TOLD ALL I WILL TELL.
BUT I PLACE IN YOUR MINDS THE LOCATION THE ITEMS, IN THE TWIN WORLDS.
WHAT YOU DO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE IS UP TO YOU. JUST BE WARNED--
--THERE WILL BE OTHERS SEEKING THEM.
GONE.
WHAT HE SAID WAS THE TRUTH--I KNOW THAT MUCH. BUT THERE WAS MORE BEHIND IT. SOMETHING HE WASN'T SAYING...
SO NOW WHAT? DO WE BELIEVE HIM? SOME GUY WE'VE NEVER MET, NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE? HE CAN POP INTO THE WATCHTOWER AT WILL--
--CAN HE BEAT THE LASSO, TOO? AND WHO ARE THESE OTHERS?
I DON'T LIKE IT. DOING SOMETHING WE DON'T UNDERSTAND, JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE TELLS US TO.
AS OPPOSED TO DOING THE TELLING, HM?
STILL, [redacted] ARE BEING INVADED BY THIS OTHER WORLD. AND BELIEVE ME, FROM WHAT I SAW, IT'S NOT A NICE PLACE.
WE HAVE TO INVESTIGATE, AT THE VERY LEAST.

ND SO...
EVERYONE READY?
OKAY. I CAN'T GO, OBVIOUSLY, NOT WITHOUT LOSING MY POWER AGAIN--
--AND SOMEONE'S GOT TO STAY AND KEEP BIG BALDY HERE COMPANY--
--BUT THE ATOM'S AGREED TO TAKE MY PLACE ON THE FIELD TEAM, FOR THIS MISSION AT LEAST.
ARE YOU KIDDING?
ANOTHER UNIVERSE, DIFFERENT PHYSICAL LAWS? LET ME AT IT!
YEAH, THAT'S ANOTHER THING...
YES. THE SPEED FORCE MIGHT NOT BE THE ONLY THING THAT'S DIFFERENT OVER THERE. WE'LL BE ALERT.
YEAH, SORRY. THAT PLACE JUST GIVES ME THE WILLIES.
OKAY, I'M SETTING UP A VIBRATIONAL FIELD--
--TRANSFERRING THE EFFECTS TO YOU--
--MATCHING THE OTHER WORLD'S FREQUENCY--
BUILDING UP, BUILDING UP--
NNH! MAN, I TELL YOU--
--IF THIS IS NNH WEAKENED, I WOULDN'T WANT TO TRY THIS WHEN IT'S FULL STRENGTH--
--OKAY, OKAY--

AVENGERS MANSION.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY OTHER DIMENSIONS THERE ARE, JAN?
WELL...
EXACTLY. NEITHER DOES ANYONE ELSE.
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CREATE A WARNING SYSTEM THAT'D TELL US IF THE TIME-BARRIER HAS BEEN BREACHED, AND DIMENSIONAL BARRIERS WERE NEXT...
STILL, A ONE-DIMENSIONAL ALARM IS POSSIBLE. I'VE GOT DATA FROM QUASAR, AND JACK OF HEARTS SCANALYZED THE STAR CONQUEROR BEFORE IT FLED--
--SO I'M RIGGING A SYSTEM TO SCAN FOR THE APPEARANCE OF THAT ONE PARTICULAR ENERGY-SIGNATURE--
I HAVE FULL FAITH IN YOU, TONY. I'M SURE YOU--HEY, LOOK WHO'S HERE!
I SENT OUT A CALL FOR RESERVISTS AND ANY INACTIVE AVENGERS WHO COULD HELP US OUT ON THIS ONE--AND GUESS WHO CAME A'RUNNING?
YOU KNOW YOU GUYS CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT ME.
I'M GONE FOR A WHILE, AND YOU START HAVING TROUBLE WITH ANGRY SEAFOOD?
I MEAN, REALLY!
HOW'S IT GOING, TONY?
GOOD TO SEE YOU, HAWKEYE. C'MERE...
NOT SURE. BUT I THINK I'VE...
BREEPeepBREEP
YOU'RE JUST TESTING THAT THING, RIGHT?
THAT'S JUST A TEST.
NO, HAWKEYE. WHATEVER WE'RE DEALING WITH...
"...IT'S HERE."

THAT RUINED CITY--THE BUILDINGS, THE CARVINGS--IF WE COULD CHECK IT OUT FOR A MINUTE OR TWO...

IT ▮▮ LOOK INTERESTING, ATOM. IMPOSSIBLY OLD, PROBABLY PRE-HUMAN...

WE DON'T HAVE TIME.

WE'LL SPLIT UP. DO A QUICK RECONNAISSANCE, FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WORLD. THEN MEET AT THE SITE OF THE FIRST ARTIFACT.

STAY MIND-LINKED. AND JUST OBSERVE AND REPORT. NO GETTING INVOLVED.

OKAY. AQUAMAN, YOU AND ME...

DIANA, ATOM...

BYEEE! DON'T FORGET TO WRITE...!

LATVERIA.

WE'RE INVISIBLE, RIGHT?

INVISIBLE AND INAUDIBLE. WHAT IS THIS?

DISCRET DOOM

THEY CHEER FOR HIM. SING HIS PRAISES... UNDER THREAT OF DEATH!

THIS IS NO WAY FOR A MONARCH TO ACT! WE SHOULD...

SHOULD NOTHING, AQUAMAN. JUST OBSERVE AND MOVE ON.

GENOSHA.

IT'S LIKE--LIKE WALKING THROUGH HIROSHIMA. THE DEVASTATION!

WHO COULD DO THIS, KNOWING WHAT IT WOULD...?

A SCAN OF NEIGHBORING NATIONS REVEALS THESE PEOPLE WERE BOMBED FOR BEING GENETIC MUTANTS. FOR THE CRIME OF BEING DIFFERENT.

LEAVE IT, J'ONN. MOVE ON.

MICHIGAN.

LOOK AT THIS! THE DESTRUCTION, THE CARNAGE--THE ARMY OBVIOUSLY COULDN'T STOP THAT THING!

MAYBE...

WE STAY WITH THE PLAN, SUPERMAN. DON'T GET INVOLVED.

NEW YORK.

HENH.

DRUG DEALERS. NEVER COULD STAND THEM, EVEN BACK WHEN I WAS A CROOK.

BETTER GET BACK TO--

--TO--

BATS?
HEL-LO? WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO YOURSELF?!
"STICK TO THE PLAN," HE SAYS. "OBSERVE AND MOVE ON," HE SAYS.
BUT DOES HE FOLLOW THE PLAN? OR DOES HE SPEND TWENTY MINUTES BEATING UP SOME LOON IN KEVLAR TO SAVE SOME DRUG DEALERS?!
FRANKLY, PLAS, I WISH WE'D DONE THE SAME.
I AGREE.
BUT WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES BE DISTRACTED FROM OUR MISSION. PEOPLE DIED IN KEYSTONE CITY. OUR WORLD IS ENDANGERED, TOO.
THIS WORLD. THIS WORLD!
IT'S LUSH, IT'S ALIVE--THERE ARE HEROES HERE TOO, FROM WHAT WE'VE DISCOVERED. HOW CAN THEY ALLOW THIS? HOW CAN THEY STAND FOR IT? DON'T THEY CARE?
UM...
SUPES?
LET'S GET THOSE ARTIFACTS. I DON'T TRUST THE PEOPLE HERE.
I'LL FEEL BETTER IF WE DECIDE HOW TO USE THEM.
AN ISLAND IN THE SEA OF OKHOTSK.
THE FIRST ONE'S HERE, RIGHT? WE CAN ALL FEEL IT.
AND I TELL YOU, IT'S FREAKY--IT'S LIKE KNOWING WHERE YOUR SOCKS ARE, BUT YOU'VE NEVER OWNED ANY S--
--WHOA! EARTHQUAKE!
NO, PLASTIC MAN! THERE!
LOOK!

HURR
GRAA
RUUU
FIGURES. WE GOTTA FIGHT THE MONSTERS TO GET THE DINGUS, RIGHT? I DESIGNED A VIDEO GAME LIKE THIS ONCE.
THOSE ARE SOME GREAT-LOOKING MONSTERS, THOUGH...
MAYBE WE DON'T, KYLE.
BATMAN--THE ARTIFACT'S THAT WAY. SEE IF YOU CAN GO AROUND THE MONSTERS--RECOVER IT WITHOUT ENGAGING THEM.
AND IN THE MEANTIME...
GRUHH
HRGGK
IN THE MEANTIME, THE JUSTICE LEAGUE LAUNCHES SMOOTHLY, CONFIDENTLY, INTO ACTION. THEY ARE THEIR WORLD'S ELITE. THEIR FINEST.
THEY HAVE FACED COUNTLESS MENACES THAT WOULD STAGGER THE IMAGINATION.
THEY HAVE TRIUMPHED OVER THEM ALL.

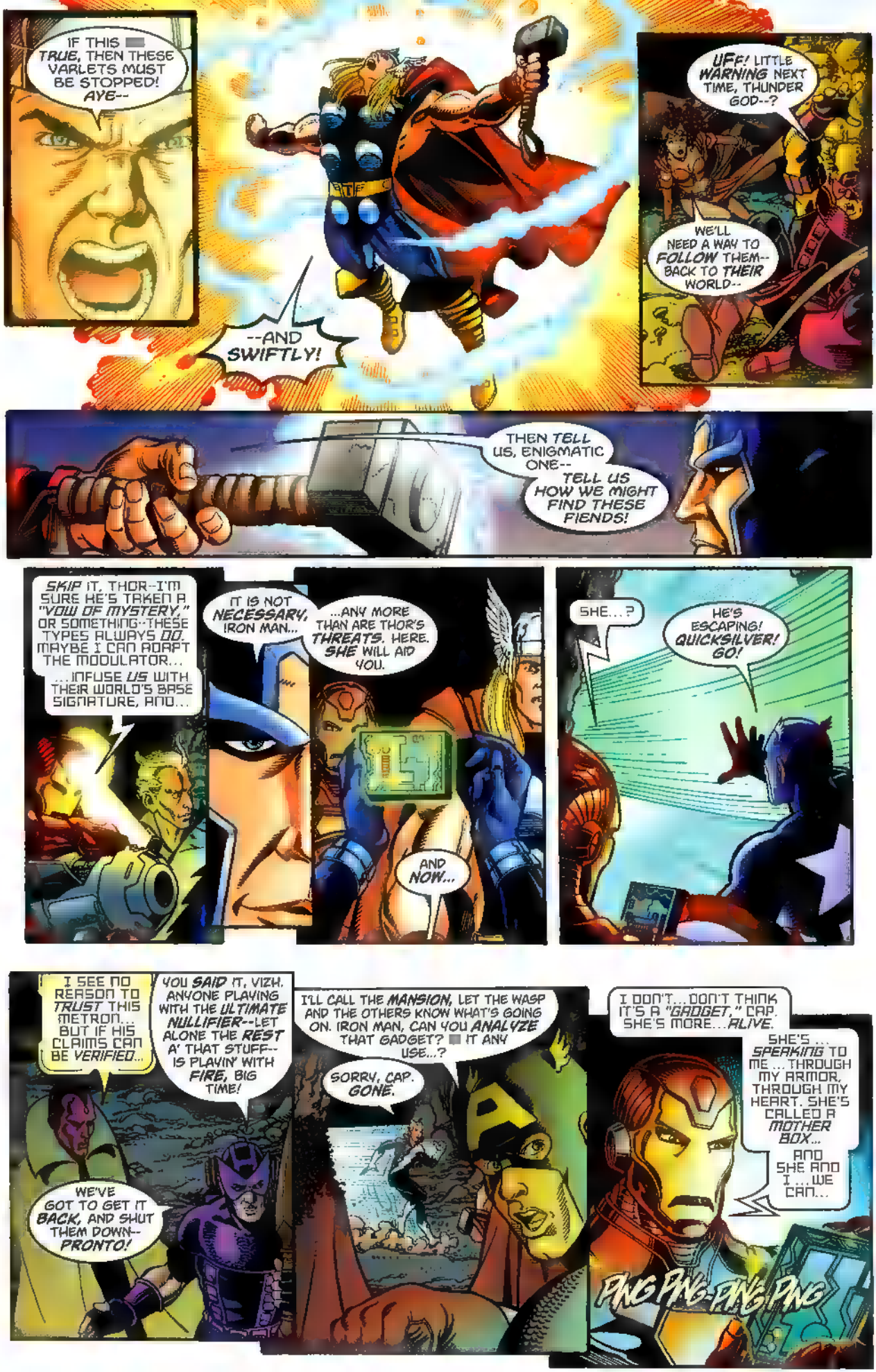
INDIVIDUALLY, THEIR SKILLS ARE UNSURPASSED.
AND WHEN NEEDS MUST--
NOT MUCH COVER LEFT--AND MORE OF THESE CREATURES THAN I'D HAVE THOUGHT. LEAGUE...?
GOT YOU COVERED, BATS.
STEADY ON THE RIGHT... STEADY ON THE LEFT...
PLASTIC MAN.
OH, OKAY.
KRAKAM
--THEY COME TOGETHER INTO THE GREATEST FIGHTING FORCE THEIR WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN.
THEY ARE THE JUSTICE LEAGUE.
CHAMPIONS ALONE.
UNSTOPPABLE TOGETHER.
HEY, BATMAN! THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO BEING THIS SMALL, HMM?
YOU KNOW, I HAD A THOUGHT...

AND...
YOU HAVE IT?
I DO. IT'S NOT ONE OF OURS, THOUGH, AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IT IS. J'ONN, IF YOU COULD...?
OF COURSE. I'LL JUST PROBE...
GREAT H'RONMEER!
THIS-- THIS DEVICE, IT--THE POWER IN IT --
--IT ALONE COULD DESTROY...
...DESTROY ENTIRE UNIVERSE...
J'ONN! STOP YOUR PROBE! IT'S OVERWHELMING YOU--FOGGING YOUR MIND-- AND YOU'RE TELEPATHICALLY SPREADING IT TO THE REST OF--
NH?
WHAT?
WHO?
IRON MAN! THE NULLIFIER'S CLEAR!
NOW!

AH, COME TO--
--PAPA?
NO! SHE--
ALL RIGHT, WHO ARE--
--HUH?
OKAY. I'M GUESSING THEY WERE THE "OTHERS" THE BLUE GUY WARNED US ABOUT. BUT WHERE'D THEY GO?
THEY SHOT THAT THING AT US, AND--
THEY DIDN'T GO ANYWHERE, PLASTIC MAN. WE DID. WE'RE STILL IN THE KURIL ISLANDS, BUT BACK OUR HOME UNIVERSE.
I CAN SEE METROPOLIS, STAR CITY, ST. ROCHE...
THEY CAST US OUT OF THEIR UNIVERSE? WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A WORD? OF ALL THE CONTEMPTUOUS...
PRETTY RUDE, ALL RIGHT.
YEAH! WE SHOULD GO BACK AND--
NO.
WE HAVE WHAT WENT THERE FOR. NO NEED TO FIGHT IF THERE'S NO POINT TO IT.

I FEAR IT MAY COME TO FAR MORE OF A FIGHT THAN WE THINK.
THERE ARE FIVE MORE ITEMS OF POWER IN THAT WORLD--WE CAN ALL FEEL IT.
THAT WORLD, THAT PLACE--
--I DIDN'T GET MUCH OF A LOOK AT THEM, BUT IF THOSE WERE ITS HEROES, I'M NOT IMPRESSED.
NOT WITH THEIR WORLD, NOT WITH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.
I'M NOT.
LET'S GET BACK TO THE WATCH-TOWER.
THE ARTIFACT WE HAVE IS BAD ENOUGH. IF THOSE PEOPLE HAVE MORE--
--THIS COULD BE UNTHINKABLY DANGEROUS.
WELL.
THE SIGNATURE MODULATOR WORKED PERFECTLY--STRENGTHENING THEIR CORE ENERGY-PATTERNS, RESTORING THEM TO THE WORLD THEY CAME FROM--BUT--
I THOUGHT THE NULLIFIER WAS CLEAR WHEN I FIRED. BUT THAT WOMAN--SHE MOVED SO FAST--
MORE INTRUDERS--THIS TIME, STEALING FROM OUR WORLD. BUT WHY...?
IT MATTERS NOT, QUICKSILVER. THEY HAVE THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER ITSELF. E'EN MIGHTY GALACTUS DOTH RIGHTLY FEAR ITS POWER.
THEY ARE A THREAT TO ALL LIFE, AND MUST BE DEALT WITH!
YOU KNOW, THERE WAS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THEM...
AVENGERS!
I HAVE INCREASED THE SENSITIVITY OF MY AUDIO RECEPTORS, AND I SENSE RESPIRATION!
WE ARE BEING WATCHED--FROM THERE!

MORE OF THEM?
SWIFTLY, AVENGERS-- LEST THEY ESCAPE!
QUICKSILVER! DON'T GET TOO FAR AHEAD! WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE MIGHT BE--
NH!
UHH!
HMH? WHAT--?
A FORCE FIELD! AND EVEN WHEN I WILL MY ANDROID FORM TO FULL INTANGIBILITY, I CANNOT --
IT'S A TRAP.
THEY LEFT BEHIND A TRAP, AND BLUNDERED INTO IT LIKE--
I'M NOT SO SURE, HAWKEYE. NOT UNLESS THEY LEFT ONE OF THEIR OWN BEHIND, AS WELL.
GOOD AFTERNOON, CAPTAIN AMERICA.
YOU ARE RIGHT TO [redacted] CAUTIOUS. BUT THIS IS NOT A TRAP. I MERELY WISHED TO SPEAK TO YOU WITHOUT UNDUE... EXCITEMENT.
YOU MAY CALL ME METRON.


IF THIS ■ TRUE, THEN THESE VARLETS MUST BE STOPPED! AYE--
--AND SWIFTLY!
UFF! LITTLE WARNING NEXT TIME, THUNDER GOD--?
WE'LL NEED A WAY TO FOLLOW THEM--BACK TO THEIR WORLD--
THEN TELL US, ENIGMATIC ONE--
TELL US HOW WE MIGHT FIND THESE FIENDS!
SKIP IT, THOR--I'M SURE HE'S TAKEN A "VOW OF MYSTERY," OR SOMETHING--THESE TYPES ALWAYS DO. MAYBE I CAN ADAPT THE MODULATOR...
...INFUSE US WITH THEIR WORLD'S BASE SIGNATURE, AND...
IT IS NOT NECESSARY, IRON MAN...
...ANY MORE THAN ARE THOR'S THREATS, HERE. SHE WILL AID YOU.
AND NOW...
SHE...?
HE'S ESCAPING! QUICKSILVER! GO!
I SEE NO REASON TO TRUST THIS METRON... BUT IF HIS CLAIMS CAN BE VERIFIED...
YOU SAID IT, VIZH. ANYONE PLAYING WITH THE ULTIMATE NULLIFIER--LET ALONE THE REST A' THAT STUFF--IS PLAYIN' WITH FIRE, BIG TIME!
WE'VE GOT TO GET IT BACK, AND SHUT THEM DOWN--PRONTO!
I'LL CALL THE MANSION, LET THE WASP AND THE OTHERS KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON. IRON MAN, CAN YOU ANALYZE THAT GADGET? ■ IT ANY USE...?
SORRY, CAP. GONE.
I DON'T... DON'T THINK IT'S A "GADGET," CAP. SHE'S MORE... ALIVE.
SHE'S ... SPEAKING TO ME ... THROUGH MY ARMOR, THROUGH MY HEART. SHE'S CALLED A MOTHER BOX...
AND SHE AND I ... WE CAN...
PNG PNG-PNG PNG

SHORTLY--IF SUCH A WORD EVEN APPLIES, ACROSS REALITIES--
--IN METROPOLIS--
ANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLANGLA
YOU SEE, MYRNA? IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU--
--WHEN YOU WORK WITH LOOPHOLE, YOU'RE GUARANTEED SUCCESS!
ANOTHER BANK BEFORE WE DEPART, PERHAPS? WITH SUPERMAN OUT OF TOWN ON JLA BUSINESS, THERE'S NO ONE TO STOP US FROM--
RUIN
WH-WHA--?
ALL RIGHT, AVENGERS--
--BE READY FOR ANYTHING!
I--
--AH--
--THEY--
--KILL THEM!
OH, LOOK.
THE WELCOME WAGON.

AND IN MOMENTS...
THEY'LL HAVE POLICE HERE. THEY CAN TAKE CARE OF THINGS.
DO THEY, WANDA? PARTS OF THIS CITY SEEM LIKE MODERN-DAY NEW YORK, BUT...
AYE. BUT PARTS DOTH SEEM STRANGELY LIKE SOME FUTURE-WORLD.
AW, SO THEY'VE GOT WEIRD ARCHITECTS. I WOULDN'T SWEAT IT, TH--
YOU SHOULD, HAWKEYE. WE ALL SHOULD.
WE'RE IN AN UNKNOWN, UNPREDICTABLE WORLD, AND WE'RE OUTSIDERS.
WE SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS--IT'S LIKELY WE'LL BE MET WITH HOSTILITY, OR--
UH... CAP?
HEY! THAT WAS GREAT!
...AUTOGRAPH...
...PHOTO...
TOOK OUT THOSE GUYS ALMOST AS GOOD AS...
HM?
--YOU WITH THE JSA? YOU'RE TOO OLD TO BE TITANS...
--CAN YOU MAKE IT OUT TO KIRK?
UH...SURE, NO PROBLEM. I DON'T SEE WHY N --
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, AVENGERS! OR DID YOU FORGET WE'VE GOT A JOB TO DO?
QUICKSILVER-- SCOUT AROUND! THE REST OF YOU--
"--MOVE OUT, NOW!"
BUT--JUST A SIGNATURE--?
WOW.
WHO JAMMED THAT STAR UP HIS STRIPES...?

--HONORED YESTERDAY BY THE U.N. FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE--
--WHERE SHE CHATTED WITH CHILDREN BEFORE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION--
THEY DO HONOR THEIR HEROES WELL HERE...
--PICKED BY JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS NATIONWIDE AS THEIR FAVORITE--
HMPH.
CAP. WANDA. LOOK!
FOX STORAGE
THEY HAVE A MUSEUM DEVOTED TO A SUPER-SPEEDSTER!
A MUSEUM!
HM?
THESE ARTICLES, ADS...
...THESE PEOPLE IDOLIZE THEIR HEROES...
YES.
NOT LIKE SO OFTEN BACK HOME, EH?
DAILY PLANET
GALA RE-OPENING AT FLASH MUSEUM
I SWEAR, THERE'S SOMETHING-- IT'S ON THE TIP OF MY--
I DON'T LIKE IT!
"JUSTICE"--THIS ISN'T JUSTICE! LOOK AROUND--THIS IS THEIR CITY, IT WASN'T BUILT BY MEN. THEY MUST OWN THIS WORLD, LIKE LITTLE TIN GODS--
--DEMANDING THE PUBLIC'S ADORATION INSTEAD OF PROTECTING ITS FREEDOMS!
DON'T YOU FEEL IT? IT'S SOUR--IT'S WRONG--
CAP? ARE YOU...?
ALL RIGHT, INTRUDERS--

--YOUR INVASION STOPS HERE.

YOUR OWN WORLD MAY BE A SORRY, DISGRACEFUL SHAMBLES--BUT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BRING YOUR MADNESS TO OURS, AS WELL!

FACED WITH AN ASSEMBLAGE OF POWER THIS PREPOSSESSING, ANY OTHER GROUP MIGHT TRY TO RUN, TO ESCAPE.

BUT THESE ARE THE AVENGERS. THEIR EARTH'S MIGHTIEST. THEY'VE FACED GODS, GENOCIDAL MADMEN, ALIEN ARMADAS AND MORE.

THEY DON'T SCARE EASILY.

STORAG

OX

OH, RIGHT--NOW I GOT IT! THESE LOSERS--THEY'RE NOTHIN' BUT A BUNCH OF SQUADRON SUPREME WANNA-BES!
FIVE GETS YOU TEN THEY'RE MIND-CONTROLLED!
STAND DOWN, ALL OF YOU--AND BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
THIS WILL ALL BE DEALT WITH--BUT NOT WHILE DANGEROUS LOOSE CANNONS LIKE YOU ARE FREE, JEOPARDIZING OUR WORLD'S SAFETY.
UH, GL... IS IT JUST ME, OR IS BIG BLUE LAYIN' IT ON A LITTLE THICK...?
IT'S NOT YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, BUT...
MISTER, I'VE GOT ONE WORD IN RESPONSE TO YOUR DEMANDS: NUTS!
I KNEW YOU WERE FASCIST OVERLORDS--AND THIS JUST CONFIRMS IT!
HUH?
SPREAD OUT, EVERYONE. IF THESE HIGH-AND-MIGHTY STORMTROOPERS WANT TO TAKE US IN, THEY'D BETTER BE PREPARED TO TAKE THEIR LUMPS--!
CAP? SHOULDN'T WE AT LEAST TRY TO...
TIMD TIMP
WH--?
THOU HAST INVADED OUR REALM, SOUGHT POWERFUL AND DESTRUCTIVE WEAPONRY, THREATENED OUR UNIVERSE ENTIRE--
--AND THOU DOST TREAT US AS IF WE ARE THE MALEFACTORS?
I HAVE HAD ENOW!
COME, AVENGERS--

"-- LET US SHOW THESE CAITIFFS WHAT WE THINK OF THEM!"
KRAK
GH-UHH!

ELSEWHERE...
AND SO IT BEGINS.
THEY DO NOT KNOW THEY PLAY A GAME--A GAME OF MY DEVISING.
BUT THE CONFLICT IS WELL ESTABLISHED--
--AND THE STAKES, QUITE REAL.
YES--
--BUT YOU REALIZE, I HOPE--
--THAT KRONA HAS NO INTENTION OF ABIDING BY YOUR RULES.
IF HE WINS, HE WILL CLAIM HIS PRIZE. IF HE LOSES-- HE'LL DO WHATEVER HE MUST TO GAIN WHAT HE SEEKS.
TRUE. NEITHER UNIVERSE MAY SURVIVE, IN THE END.
BUT THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY TO DELAY HIM.
TO BUY SOME TIME.
SO EVENTS WILL HAVE TO PLAY OUT AS THEY WILL.
AND FOR THE SAKE OF TWO UNIVERSES, LET US HOPE KRONA DOES NOT DISCOVER--
--THAT I AM SIMULTANEOUSLY PLAYING A DEEPER GAME--!
END of BOOK ONE

NEXT: WHEN TITANS CLASH!

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